

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-10 VO-03
CA-01 CIAE-00 INSE-00 DODE-00 DEAE-00 SP-02 AID-05
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O R 031205Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7211
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
US MISSION GENEVA 2639
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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DEPT PASS INS/CO (CO-EX) BROBSON; HONG KONG FOR INS/DIDIR/
FELDMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: APPEALS TO THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE REFUGEES FROM
A NORWEGIAN AND A GREEK SHIP.

1. SUMMARY: WE RECEIVED APPEALS OCTOBER 3 FROM THE
NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR AND THE UNHCR TO ACCEPT
INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM A NORWEGIAN AND A GREEK
SHIP RESPECTIVELY. WE RECOMMEND A RESPONSE IN
BOTH CASES. WE NEED AN ANSWER ON THE CASE OF THE
GREEK SHIP BY OPENING OF BUSINESS LOCAL TIME
OCTOBER 4. END SUMMARY.

2. NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR FINN KOREN CALLED ON THE
AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 3. HIS PURPOSE WAS TO APPEAL
TO THE U.S. TO TAKE UP TO 50 REFUGEES FROM A GROUP
OF 76 CURRENTLY IN THAILAND UNDER NORWEGIAN
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GUARANTEE. THE NORWEGIAN SHIP TOLEDO RESCUED
75 PERSONS IN DISTRESS ON THE HIGH SEAS AND
BROUGHT THEM TO THAILAND SEPTEMBER 19. THE
RTG PERMITTED THE REFUGEES TO DEBARK AFTER RECEIV-
ING A NORWEGIAN PROMISE TO REMOVE THEM FROM
THAILAND WITHIN 30 DAYS. A CHILD HAS SINCE BEEN
BORN, MAKING THE TOTAL 76.

3. KOREN'S ARGUMENT WAS THAT VIRTUALLY ALL 76 WANTED TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT SEVERAL HAD CLOSE RELATIVES THERE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT NORWAY HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY CONSCIENTIOUS IN ACCEPTING REFUGEES THAT ITS SHIPS PICK UP, BUT THAT HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THIS HOSPITALITY WOULD CONTINUE UNLESS NORWAY GOT SOME RELIEF FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED TO KOREN THE ISRAELI SHIP THAT HAD PICKED UP 66 PERSONS THIS SUMMER. DESPITE SEVERAL AMONG THEM HAVING CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE U.S. ISRAEL WAS RESETTLING THEM ALL. HE REITERATED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY THAT THE COUNTRY WHOSE FLAG THE SHIP WAS FLYING WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCEPTING THE REFUGEES.

5. AN AMERICAN REFUGEE OFFICER WHO TALKED WITH THE REFUGEES FROM THE NORWEGIAN SHIP DISCOVERED TWO, A MAN AND HIS WIFE, WHO WOULD MEET NORMAL IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES. THE HUSBAND HAS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN BROTHER. THERE WERE SIX OTHERS WHO STRONGLY FULFILLED THE CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS. SOME 31 OTHERS ARE IN FAMILIES WHOSE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT IS A MARRIED SIBLING OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAROLEES IN THE UNITED STATES.

6. THE SECOND CASE CONCERNS A SHIP OF GREEK REGISTRY, THE GLOBAL TRADER, THAT ARRIVED IN BANGKOK OCTOBER 1 CARRYING 20 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. A UNHCR OFFICER INFORMED US TODAY THAT AUSTRALIA HAD ACCEPTED FOUR AND FRANCE TWO. AUSTRALIA IS WILLING TO TAKE ANOTHER FOUR IF THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE THE REMAINING TEN. THE OFFICER WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE REMAINING REFUGEES BECAUSE TWO CHILDREN AMONG THE TEN WERE QUITE ILL WITH MALARIA, AND THERE WERE STRONG RUMORS OF MUTINY AMONG THE CREW, MANY OF WHOM WERE RELUCTANT TO SAIL FOR THE SHIP'S NEXT DESTINATION, NIGERIA.

7. THERE ARE TWO PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS AMONG THE REMAINING TEN WHO WERE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES. THE OTHER EIGHT ARE IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF ONE OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS. THE SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BANGKOK OCTOBER 5.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF THE OUTSTANDING NORWEGIAN RECORD IN ACCEPTING REFUGEES PICKED UP AT SEA, WE RECOMMEND WE ACCEPT SUBJECT TO LATER INS SCRUTINY, EIGHT REFUGEES FROM THE TOLEDO, SINCE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE QUITE LIKELY TO END UP IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

9. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT GREECE IS NOT A COUNTRY OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION, THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF TWO OF THE REFUGEE CHILDREN, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A MUTINY ABOARD THE GLOBAL TRADER, WE REQUEST IMMEDIATE AUTHORITY TO INFORM THE UNHCR THAT WE WILL PRELIMINARILY ACCEPT THE TEN REMAINING REFUGEES ABOARD THE SHIP WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PROVISIO THAT THEY MUST LATER PASS INS SCRUTINY. THIS AUTHORIZATION SHOULD ARRIVE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS, LOCAL TIME, OCTOBER 4, TO PERMIT US TIME TO PROCESS THE REFUGEES OFF THE SHIP. DECONTROL AFTER TWO MONTHS. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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